



# State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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May 20, 1991

Ms. Delores Rider  
86 Renault Avenue  
Medford, Oregon 97501

Dear Ms. Rider:

Re: Tin Can Use in the Bingham Canyon Leach Process, M/035/002, Salt Lake County, Utah

The Division received your April 4, 1991 letter, concerning the question of the use of recycled tin in Kennecott's leaching process. My apologies for the delay in responding. I was not aware of the issue and contacted Kennecott regarding your question. Kennecott apparently has made a formal response to several articles written in California papers, concerning this issue. I have enclosed a copy of their response with this letter.

Recent studies suggest that the leaching process used at the Bingham Pit has created a problem by degrading groundwater, in the Jordan River Valley. Iron from the tin cans is a component of the leaching process; however, the tin cannot be directly blamed for this problem. Apparently, as pointed out in the information supplied by Kennecott, the tin or iron from the cans, does not constitute a toxic or hazardous waste.

The leaching process creates an acidic leachate which can affect groundwater. The leached dumps also present a problem to reclamation, because the acidic nature of the leached dump material inhibits revegetation efforts.

Thank you for your interest and input.

Sincerely,

Holland Shepherd  
Senior Reclamation Specialist

jb  
Enclosure  
M035002.5